

As American citizens, we are alarmed: Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election is, as we see it, a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and an attempt to sway voters with an unbalanced program.

We understand that Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge; in doing so, it is obligated by law to serve the American public interest. However, when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Regretably, we see Sinclair's actions as a shrill wakeup call to all Americans as to why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Furthermore, Sinclair's actions show why the license renewal process needs to be made a serious procedure involving more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.